m/045/017

Barrick Resources (USA) Inc.
Barrick Mercur Gold Mine
8 East Broadway
Suite 720
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
801-539-0660
Fax 801-539-0665

BARRICK

November 1, 1999

By: First Class Mail

Mr. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor
State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Re: Reservation Canyon Tailing Impoundment – Final Closure and Reclamation Plan – Response To Questions

Dear Mr. Hedberg;

As a result of our meeting conducted on October 20, 1999 at the Mercur Mine Site, Barrick Resource (USA) Inc. (Barrick) has prepared the following responses to the two concerns raises by your staff; construction schedule and placement of cover materials (soil cover) by layer of material type.

Construction Schedule

As stated in Barrick's August 2, 1999 letter; *"Barrick has scheduled the 1999 phase of the final construction effort to commence on or about September 20, 1999. Barrick anticipate completing all construction phases by 2000."*, Barrick clarifies this statement as follows.

Phase one of final construction will commence on or about November 9, 1999. Phase one is estimated to last approximately ten weeks. However, weather and tailing surface conditions will dictate the actual duration of phase one final construction. Barrick plans to commence phase two of final construction in the summer of 2000 and its duration will be dictated by the tailing surface conditions. If conditions are such that cover placement cannot be conducted in compliance with the construction specification a third phase of final construction may be necessary, probably late 2000 or summer of 2001.

Soil Cover Materials Placement

The soil cover system will be constructed in accordance with a "method of construction by observation" approach. The documentation and criteria associated with this design approach are discussed in Sections 10.3 and 10.4, and detailed in Appendix I of the 1999 "Site Characterization and Final Closure Design Report" (design report). As documented therein, please note that results presented on Tables 10-1, 10-2, and 10-3 are the results of sensitivity

analyses (for depth to saturation, undrained shear strength of the tailings, etc.), which were prepared to assist the contractors to select equipment and safely plan the construction of the facility. These results are not intended as prescriptive criteria, since considerable heterogeneity of the tailings shear strengths, permeability's, depth to saturation etc. are anticipated.

The topsoil and subgrade materials are distinctly different material types, which must be placed as distinct horizons. This criteria is defined in the specifications. The definition of the specified materials are provided in Article 2.01, Section 02200-2 of the specifications, with the execution criteria and grade tolerances for each of the defined fill material types included as Article 3.03, Section 02200 of the specifications.

Barrick and Golder Associates Inc. trusts the above information clarifies the Divisions of Oil, Gas and Minerals concerns. Should you have any further questions or comments after reviewing the above referenced information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 801-539-0660 ext. 305 or the engineer or record, Brent R. Bronson, at 303-980-0540.

Sincerely,

Leonard Boteilho, REM
Project Manager

Cc: Keith Eagan, UDWQ
Lyle Stott, UDWQ
Brent Bronson, Golder Associates Inc.
Glenn Eurick, Barrick

BARRICK